of Credit already opened by banks in the erstwhile Soviet Union and advised to the Indian exporters up to 31st December, 1991.

Fall in the Export of Traditional Items

691. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarded Question 103 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1992 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our export performance has been steadily declining in respect of all traditional items ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the basic reasons for such decline ;

(d) what efforts have been made and results achieved by Government in respect of export of non-traditional engineering and other finished goods since the last financial year ; and

(e) what effective steps are being taken by Government to boost the exports and to make good the loss of market suffered since the changes in former Soviet Union and the East European countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No. Sir. The export of traditional goods has increased from Rs. 6278 crores in 1988-89 to Rs. 7634 crores in 1989-90 and Rs. 9256 crores in 1990-91. The export of these items further increased to Rs. 10090 crores during the first ten months (April—January) of 1991-92.

(d) and (e) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. In the Budget for 1992-93, rupee was made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange and compress imports through the price mechanism by making them dearer. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy announced on 31st March, 1992, which, *inter-alia*, aims to promote the productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian Industry and thereby to enhence its export capabilities. Besides, the Government has taken other steps which include reducing controls through licensing, simplification of procedures for export, activisation of Board of Trade, bilateral discussions with select countries, interaction with national organisations of Trade and Industry, etc. In additon, the Government has opened a dialogue with the newly formed Republic of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and signed bilateral agreements with a number of them already.

मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल द्वारा अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के लिए प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन

692. **श्री गुफरान आजम** : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश दूरसंचार सर्किल ने कुछ समय पहले अपने कुछ अधीनस्थ कार्यालयों में अनुवादक ग्रेड-III के पदों पर भर्ती हेतु एक प्रतियोगी परीक्षा का आयोजन किया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो यह परीक्षा कब आयोजित की गयी थी;

(ग) क्या इस परीक्षा का परिणाम घोषित कर दिया गया है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ङ) सफल उम्मीदवारों को कब तक नियुक्ति पत्र भेज दिये जाने की संभावना है; और

(च) मध्य प्रदेश सर्किल में ऐसे अनुवादकों के कितने पद खाली हैं और ये पद किस तारीख से खाली पड़े हैं ?

संचार मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री पी० वी० रंगैया नायडू) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) परीक्षा 16 फरवरी, 1991 को आयोजित की गई ।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) प्रशासनिक औपचारिकताओं के पूरा होते ही नियुक्ति के प्रस्ताव भेजे जाएंगे।

(च) 20 पद, जिनमें से 4 पद 1981 में और 16 पद 1983 से रिक्त हैं।

Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

693. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Bihar;

(b) what is the number of telephone exchanges which have been converted into electronic exchanges;

(c) by when all the remaining telephone exchanges in Bihar are likely to be converted into electronic ones;

(d) whether Government propose to open more telephone exchanges in Bihar; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. B. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 515 as on 31-3-92.

(b) 315 up to 31-3-92.

(c) By 31-3-97 remaining telephone exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Fifty number of exchanges per year are proposed to be opened provided there is demand. The name of stations will be decided as and when demand arises.

Function of Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange

694. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ballabgarh Telephone Exchange located in Sector 6 of Faridabad, is not functioning properly with a large number of telephone connections remaining out of order frequently and no action is taken by the authorities to mitigate grievances of the telephone subscribers falling in the jurisdiction of this exchange;

(b) if so, what concrete steps are proposed by Government to ensure smooth and efficient working of this telephone exchange;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to convert this telephone exchange into Electronic one's to improve its working; and

(d) if so, what is the progress in this direction, so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Performance of the exchange is quite satisfactory. However, constant efforts are being made to further improve the efficiency of the Ballabgarh exchange.

(c) There is no proposal to replace the exchange at present. However, 2-K(RLU) of electronic exchange Faridabad is planned during 1992-93 as expansion of this exchange.

(d) As given in answer to part(c) above.

Extension of Licences of M.T.N.L. of Delhi and Bombay

695. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether lincences given to the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi and Bombay are being extended;

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the functioning of these Nigams; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert the telephone system in other major cities into Mahanagar Telephone Nigams?